

#### BEHEMOTH

- Loch Ness: The most recent issue of Nessletter (# 105) includes a full transcription of the Loch Ness Project's recent plans concerning their investigation of the loch. AS with the other scientific team, Operation Urquhart, the monster plays only a minor or nonexistent role, most of their work is directed at lake morphometry, seismic work, small organisms, etc. The Times (18 Jan, p.4g) had a column on the Japanese interest in the Loch Ness Monster. It says interest is so great in Japan that the tourist board should emphasize the monster in its Asian campaigns. The Times also mentions Lake Kyūshū in Bihoro province, Japan's Loch Ness. The Mannheimer Morgen, 28 Dec 1991, p.19 had a short review on new betting quota in Great Britain, including the quota for evidence for Nessie's existence proved in 1992.
- Tatzelwurm: A historic view over Tatzelwurm sightings from 1673 to 1969 in Pursuit 22:1, pp. 6 - 10, by Luis Schönherr. While the article includes sightings from Yugoslavia and reports of dragons, which are very interesting, the inclusion of a story from Mongolia seems to be a bit out-of-place.
- Bibliography: The weekly "Zeit", 15 Nov 1991, p.88 had an article on a British landscape artists who planned to erect a pyramid at the shore of Lough Abisdealy, Eire, a place of several monster sightings. Notes on Beckjord's Cryptozoology Museum in Malibu in Pursuit 22:1, p.42. A good report on the recent wave of monster sightings in Lake Erie in Fortean Times 60. p.36

#### ISIS:

- Initial bipedalism: FranCois de Sarre has send me a further round-up of his recently published articles on his theory: 3<sup>o</sup>Millenaire 21:27, 45 - 47 and Parasciences Transcommunication - n° 6, July 1991, p.3132
- abducted by mermen: In Bilk # 45, I listed two mermen related abductions and pregnancies and compared them to the modern UFO-abduction reports,. Fortean Times 60, p.8, has a story on abductions of ladies by mermen in Swaziland which closely agree with the old European stories (for more African mermaid sightings, see Bilk 33). To complete this merman/mermaid/human/seduction/pregnancy/abduction motif, here are the relevant stories from Brasil: The fishermen in the Amazon believe dolphins can transform into humans. As women, they are called chicas preciosas, beautiful girls, as men, they hid their two spouting holes at the forehead under a hat. They like to go to a dance and the dolphin males, especially, to sleep with human women. One woman at Bria Grande, Rio Negro, was pregnant from a dolphin. They child she gave birth to had a dolphins head sans beak, and two spouting holes. An informant og Jacques Cousteau, who collected these story (told on German TV, Hessen 3, July 26, 1985) said as belief in these transformations is dying out, dolphins no longer turn into girls and young guys. At Pucallpa, Peru, Cousteau met an old fisherman, who, while cooking, was visited by a dolphin lady turned into young girl. She was very beautiful, the man said, and wore only slip and bra. She looked the fisherman into the eyes, but he withstood her seduction, although he would have liked to sleep with her. He was too afraid she might be a witch. The next time she came, he told Custeau, he would go with her. He also confirmed that girld unexpectedly pregnant believed they had been raped by a dolphin. Indeed, his mother suffered, during one pregnancy, from strong pains and went to the tribal doctor who gave her herbs. This aborted the fetus which resembled a fish - a grey dolphin. The informant added that in former times it was usual to note in birthcertificates that the daddy had been a dolphin. A functionalist analysis of these stories might stress that the embryo resembles a fish anyway and that this might have started the legends. However, all kinds of marine creatures in many areas of the world (dolphins in Sth America/mermaids in Africa and Europe/seals and selkies in Scotland/sharks in the South Seas) have in common that they can transform into beautiful girls and men, either lure men into their wet death or rape girls and abduct them for sexual purposes. This is a complkex area of neo-cryptozoology (which deals not with biological but mythical creatures) and is nearly identical with UFO abduction stories. As a last, but not final, piece to this jigsaw puzzle, I recall the story in Bilk ca. 2 years ago about the Phillipine woman who gave birth to a fish (this was also in Fortean Times).

#### LEVIATHAN:

- The "sea monster" of Marseille: This painting in a prehistoric cave was also mentioned in an article in "Tauchen" (Munich, Jan 1992, p. 36 - 39) by Patrick Mouton, called: "Grotte 'Henri Cosquer'". Mouton says the cave was painted ca. 18 000 BC and shows not only a seal, but also "a creature which is either a penguin or a turtle". A penguin it cannot be, and it doesn't resemble a Great Auk, but I don't see any similarity to a turtle. Best to call it "Fabuloues beast", then? I'm awaiting further identifications.
- Movie: RTL, the comercial German TV channel specialised in bare-breasted women and SF B-movies, showed an Italian-French movie from 1984, director: John Old Jr. on Dec 30, 1991. The movie "Der Monsterhai" based on Spielberg's "Jaws", has a mixture of giant shark and giant octopus killing bathers off Florida. On Jan 24, German TV ARD had a documentary on sea serpents ("Seeschlangen - Mythos und Wirklichkeit") by Sigurd Tesche. I'm soory but I didn't see it and so can report on it but from the description I have it was mainly concerned with real sea snakes.

#### KRAKEN:

- I've repeatedly noted that German TV intended to send the first film ever taken of "giant octopusses". Finally, on Nov 11, the programm was screened. The film showed the well-known giant octopi off Washington, playing with divers. The pictures were magnificent, showing these intelligent creatures moving across the ocean bed plundering crab baskets, etc. The largest specimen shown had a diameter of 5 m/ 18 ft.
- Bibliography: Strange 8, p.38 1991 capture of giant squid and possible cycles. Michel Raynal and Michel Dethier have written a complete aerticle on the so-called Florida giant octopus, assembling sightings, sonar data, scientific analysis of carcass and many more interesting items to conclude the thing really exists. This very interesting paper (in French) was published in the Bulletin de la Sociêtê neuchâteloise des Sciences naturelles, t.114, 1991, p.105 - 115

#### USO:

- Light wheel: The Soviet research vessel "Vladimir Vobyrov" ("Wladimir Worobjow", in other versions, saw a giant lightwheel in the sea in 1976 in the Gulf of Bengal. The CENAP Report 188 (Okt 91) refers to an National Enquirer report of March 30, 1983 which refers to a real UFO coming out of the sea in front of the ship. The case was checked by Russian Ufologist Nikita A Schnee who found it really happened and was unexplained. A recent and vry gullible book on Soviet Ufos by Marina Popowitsch (Popovitch in English spelling) : UFO Glasnost, Langen Müller: Munich 1991, p. 197/98 has a fuller version of the sighting, which clearly refers to one of the enigmatic light wheels again.
- Lake Constance: According to the Salzburger Tagblatt (14 June 1977), reprinted in Cenap Report 1/92, p.28 a "ball of fire or burning plane" was seen by two customs officers to crash into Lake Constance at Hagnau. Searches failed to find oil traces, etc.
- Bibliography: Cenap Report 1/92, p.23, refers to a UFO over the east German Island of Rügen. These lights, travellking over the sea, were identified as probably planes. Neue Zürcher Zeitung: 8 Nov 1991, p.8: american submarine "Spadefish" collides with trawler "Le Nohic" in British Channel.

#### WHALES:

- 117 dead and 51 still living "grind" whales stranded at Hobart, Tasmania. ● Only 3 days later, 409 whales of the same species stranded at the coast of Patagonia. They were discovered north of Comodore Rivadavia, 1700 kms south of Buenos Aires (Sources: Rheinpfalz 14 Nov 91 for Tasmania, Sonntag Aktuell 17 Nov for Argentina). ● A 24-ft Bryde's Whale stranded in South Carolina on Jan 29 (Arab News, 1 Feb 92, p.20e)

#### MIXED BAG:

- Mysterious submarines in Swedish waters - Fortean Times 60, p.64. ● Briton cleared of charge of sexually exiting a dolphin at Newcastle (refer back to Isis, this issue, the theme is universal!) - Rheinpfalz, 14 Dec; The London Times, 11 Dec, p.3 (large report). ● A Chinesew schoolgirl saved a dolphin. The animal had swum "up a river from the South China Sea" and was to be cooked after being caught. The girl called the local administration who brought it into a zoo - Die Rheinpfalz, 9 Jan 92. ● A 21-year old swimmer was attacked and killed by skarks off Mombasa. Reuter report in Die Rheinpfalz, Jan 8. ● 2 small pyranhas caught in the Garonne, France., in Sept 91 - Utrechts Nieuwsblad, 7 SEpt 91 (credit: Gerard van Leusden).